

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 29, 2011 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this response, claims 11 and 18 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-10 are previously withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 15-18 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 15-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shigeru Ishida et al. (JP Patent 06 - 114315) in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,001,203) and further Enchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,455,099). Further, claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shigeru Ishida et al. (JP Patent 06 - 114315) in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,001,203) and further Enchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,455,099) in view of Vinouze et al. (U.S. Patent 5,431,771).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as being based on references that neither describe nor suggest the combination of features now recited in independent claims 11 and 18, as amended. For example, independent claim 11 now recites the features of “lowering a body supporting a syringe having a nozzle at one end towards the substrate using a vertical driving motor, wherein the vertical driving motor drives the syringe according to driving data input from a user through an input unit which comprises one of a touch panel and a keyboard, wherein the lowering is performed at a first speed; …lifting up the body, wherein the contact type switch detects the nozzle being isolated from the substrate, wherein the lifting is performed at a second speed, and wherein the second speed is slower than the first speed; detecting and storing an initial value between the nozzle and the substrate when a state of the contact type switch is switched, wherein the initial value is height information of the nozzle when the nozzle is in contact with the substrate, and wherein the detecting the initial value is performed by a laser displacement sensor.”

In particular, the claimed invention recites the features of “wherein the lifting is performed at a second speed, and wherein the second speed is slower than the first speed;

detecting and storing an initial value between the nozzle and the substrate when a state of the contact type switch is switched, wherein the initial value is height information of the nozzle when the nozzle is in contact with the substrate.”

However, according to Yamada et al., the dispensing nozzle 12 is lowered in a direction of the arrow B at a constant lowering speed ($V_1=200$ mm/s), and after completion of the horizontal application operation, the dispensing nozzle 12 is subjected to a first stage raising ($V_2=\text{about } 5$ mm/s), and after this first stage raising E, the dispensing nozzle 12 is subjected to a second stage raising F at a constant high speed ($V_3=200$ mm/s). That is, the dispensing nozzle 12 is lowered at a constant lowering speed ($V_1=200$ mm/s), and the dispensing nozzle 12 is raised at a first speed ($V_1=5$ mm/s) in the first stage raising E, and is raised at a second speed ($V_1=200$ mm/s) in the second stage raising F. Accordingly, the raising of the dispensing nozzle 12 of Yamada et al. is accomplished by different speeds slower than the speed of the lowering.

However, the speed of the lifting up the body of the claimed invention is performed at the second speed slower than the first speed of the lowering the body.

Accordingly, Yamada et al. differs from the claimed invention in that the speed of the lifting up the body of the claimed invention is performed at the second speed slower than the first speed of the lowering the body.

Meanwhile, Shigeru Ishida et al. fails to teach or suggest “detecting and storing an initial value between the nozzle and the substrate when a state of the contact type switch is switched, wherein the initial value is height information of the nozzle when the nozzle is in contact with the substrate” as recited in the claimed invention.

Accordingly, the combined teachings of Shigeru Ishida et al., Yamada et al., Enchi et al. and Vinouze et al. fail to teach or suggest “wherein the lifting is performed at a second speed, and wherein the second speed is slower than the first speed; detecting and storing an initial value between the nozzle and the substrate when a state of the contact type switch is switched” and “wherein the initial value is height information of the nozzle when the nozzle is in contact with the substrate,” as recited in amended independent claims 11 and 18.

Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited references including Shigeru Ishida et al., Yamada et al., Enchi et al. and Vinouze et al. do not teach or suggest each and every feature

recited in independent claims 11 and 18, as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of independent claims 11 and 18 be withdrawn. Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of dependent claims 15 - 17 be withdrawn at least by virtue of their dependence on independent claim 11, and for additional features that they recite.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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